

could threaten the health of Rhode Island's local economies and risk another national recession.

I know we have difficult choices ahead; but if there's one mandate both parties can claim from the November election, it is to solve our Nation's economic and fiscal challenges together. Although we may not agree on all aspects of a solution, we can all agree on the need to address the impending problem. The clock is ticking.

SUPPORTING RENEWABLE ENERGY RESEARCH PROGRAMS

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, let me thank all of the members, first of all, of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition for working so hard to protect vital funding for environmental programs, including renewable energy initiatives from the so-called fiscal cliff.

Renewable energy research is the first step for job creation and building up American manufacturing. I'm proud to say that in my own district we're leading the way with a vibrant renewable energy research industry led by the University of California at Berkeley, the East Bay Municipal Utility District, the PolyPlus Battery Company, and the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. They and others work day and night on innovations that will power our future and fuel our economy.

Mr. Speaker, we must end the billions we give in special tax breaks and subsidies to Big Oil and instead invest in manufacturing and green renewable energy projects here at home. And ending the Bush-era tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires will create more revenue for ending our dependence on foreign oil.

DON'T RAISE ELIGIBILITY AGE FOR MEDICARE

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, we're in these fiscal cliff talks, and the President and the Speaker are trying to work out a solution. They're talking about tax rates for the top 2 percent and taxing their wealth. That's something they should do because it's fair and it gives the other 98 percent tax relief. But at the same time they're talking about increasing the Medicare age from 65 to 67. That's taxing the wealth of the less fortunate people who are 65 and 67. For them and for everybody, your health is your wealth. Jimmy Copeland, a friend and semi-philosopher, said that "your health is your wealth." If you raise the Medicare age from 65 to 67, you're going to sacrifice the health of people who are not the most fortunate. So while we tax the income of the most wealthy, we'll be taxing what wealth the less wealthy

have—their health. That's wrong. Mr. President and Mr. Speaker should not increase that age and tax the poor.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Speaking in the instance of deliberations, redundancy is sometimes good. So I join my colleagues in again placing the defining word "nonstarter" on any idea to raise the eligibility age for Medicare for hardworking seniors, but hardworking Americans.

Let me clarify that Medicare is earned; it is not a handout. The word that we use as "entitlement" sometimes now has become on the order of what ObamaCare used to be. An entitlement is entitled because of earning it, and that goes to Social Security—which is solvent until 2037—and even Medicaid for seniors who are in nursing homes who have worked.

So if we move that aside to look long term at how we begin to look at entitlements, we're open-minded. But the bottom line is let's pass the middle class tax cuts that are for 100 percent of Americans. Let's join Senator TOM COBURN: I'm for raising revenue because we have to; or Senator CORKER: There's a growing body of folks who are willing to look at the rate on the top 2 percent; or KAY GRANGER: Extending middle class tax cuts is just the right thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, let's get busy in a bipartisan way.

□ 1230

MANTI TE'O

(Ms. HANABUSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. HANABUSA. Mr. Speaker, much of Hawaii was waiting this past Saturday for word of whether one of our own, Manti Te'o, would win the Heisman trophy. It would have been a first for Hawaii. Manti shares Punahou, the same high school alma mater as President Obama, and his story is compelling.

Manti is someone who has trained so hard with his parents solidly by his side to play football well. You should hear the stories by his father. He plays the game for the sense of camaraderie and the building of friendships. He is not only gifted, but a very humble young man. But many may not know that he may not have played his senior year because he lost his girlfriend and grandmother within 4 days of each other. He did play because he promised his girlfriend that he would.

Manti, you have made many of us all proud, especially those of us from Hawaii. And to you and your teammates from Hawaii, Robby Toma and Kona Schwenke, we say, go fighting Irish! Mahalo and aloha.

TAX CREDITS AND TAX CUTS

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, the permission I request is to make two simple requests to my friends in the Republican leadership and to the Rules Committee, and that is to bring to the floor two bills. One is to extend middle class tax cuts for 98 percent of the country. So that has been passed by the Senate. It provides relief to so many Americans. It should be done immediately, and it will be passed overwhelmingly here in the House of Representatives. So the request is the middle class tax cuts. Let's bring them to the floor. That deals with a big portion of the budget conversation that's going on today in Washington.

Second is for the production tax credit to be brought to the floor. Thousands of jobs all across the country are dependent upon that tax credit. Again, it would be passed overwhelmingly if it were brought to the floor. There's no reason to hold these up any longer. We need to pass these. I ask the Republican leadership and the Rules Committee to bring them to the floor.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 827 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 827

Resolved, That it shall be in order at any time through the legislative day of December 28, 2012, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules as though under clause 1 of rule XV. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from Fairport, New York, my dear friend, the ranking member on the committee, Ms. SLAUGHTER, pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. SESSIONS. I rise today in support of this rule, which will provide this body the ability to consider legislation under suspension of the rules for